

Remarks by the Honorable Sean O'Keefe  
NASA Administrator  
Greeting for Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Konnichiwa (Koe-Nee-Chee-Wah) (Hello) and greetings to our many friends in Japan.

I'm Sean O'Keefe the Administrator of NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States. I'm tremendously honored to extend my congratulations to the Japanese people on this very special occasion.

The founding of JAXA, Japan's new Aerospace Exploration Agency, represents an important and welcome development for all of us who recognize the historical importance of the space age and the role of Japan in advancing progress in space exploration and discovery.

JAXA's birth date has a special meaning for the men and women of NASA. Forty-five years ago on this very day NASA was founded here in Washington, D.C. We not only share a common point on the calendar, but also a common destiny as our two great agencies will go forward to explore the unknown on behalf of the American and Japanese peoples and indeed on behalf of all humankind.

The formation of JAXA represents the consolidation of three Japanese space agencies with whom NASA has long enjoyed a wonderful partnership—the National Space Development Agency, NASDA, the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science and the National Aerospace Laboratory.

From our strong relationship with NASDA I know very well and have the deepest respect for JAXA's first President, Mr. Yamanouchi (Ya-Ma-No-Uu-Chee). I wish him continued great success in his important leadership role.

I can assure you that in the months and years ahead, NASA will work closely with JAXA to advance progress in space activities tied directly to NASA's mission goals. Those goals are to understand and protect our home planet, explore the Universe and search for life, and inspire the next generation of explorers. We are most fortunate to

share these goals with the dreamers and doers who are helping to propel Japan's space program to new heights.

Japan is playing important leadership roles in three areas of space exploration--the development of satellites to help monitor the Earth's climate system, of spacecraft to explore the far reaches of our solar system, and of laboratory modules for the remarkable orbiting research facility known as the International Space Station.

This past June, for example, NASA welcomed the arrival in Florida of the pressurized section of the Japanese Experiment Module, also known as Kibo (Kee-Bo). Once in orbit, the Kibo (Kee-Bo) will provide an unprecedented platform for biological and physical research in space.

Japan is also developing the Centrifuge facility for the International Space Station. This facility will enable us to research how different levels of gravity facilitate biological processes, and will provide an essential research aid for the study of biological science in space.

Japan's leadership in developing systems like these for the International Space Station, and the continued involvement of your astronauts in space research and exploration activities, underscores the great tradition of U.S.-Japanese cooperation in space, which extends all the way back to 1969, the year that men first landed in the Moon.

In the years ahead, we will build on this tradition of cooperation, as we advance our shared passion for extending the spirit of exploration, discovery and invention ever farther into the new ocean of space.

So to everyone at JAXA, thank you for the honor of being among the first to say omedeto gozaimasu

(Oh-Meh-Deh-Toe Go-Zah-Ee-Mahs) — best wishes for great future success.

Remarks by the Honorable Sean O'Keefe  
NASA Administrator  
Greeting for Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Konnichiwa (Koe-Nee-Chee-Wah) (Hello) and greetings to our many friends in Japan.

I'm Sean O'Keefe the Administrator of NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States. I'm tremendously honored to extend my congratulations to the Japanese people on this very special occasion.

The founding of JAXA, Japan's new Aerospace Exploration Agency, represents an important and welcome development for all of us who recognize the historical importance of the space age and the role of Japan in advancing progress in space exploration and discovery.

JAXA's birth date has a special meaning for the men and women of NASA. Forty-five years ago on this very day NASA was founded here in Washington, D.C. We not only share a common point on the calendar, but also a common destiny as our two great agencies will go forward to explore the unknown on behalf of the American and Japanese peoples and indeed on behalf of all humankind.

The formation of JAXA represents the consolidation of three Japanese space agencies with whom NASA has long enjoyed a wonderful partnership—the National Space Development Agency, NASDA, the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science and the National Aerospace Laboratory.

From our strong relationship with NASDA I know very well and have the deepest respect for JAXA's first President, Mr. Yamanouchi (Ya-Ma-No-Uu-Chee). I wish him continued great success in his important leadership role.

I can assure you that in the months and years ahead, NASA will work closely with JAXA to advance progress in space activities tied directly to NASA's mission goals. Those goals are to understand and protect our home planet, explore the Universe and search for life, and inspire the next generation of explorers. We are most fortunate to

share these goals with the dreamers and doers who are helping to propel Japan's space program to new heights.

Japan is playing important leadership roles in three areas of space exploration--the development of satellites to help monitor the Earth's climate system, of spacecraft to explore the far reaches of our solar system, and of laboratory modules for the remarkable orbiting research facility known as the International Space Station.

This past June, for example, NASA welcomed the arrival in Florida of the pressurized section of the Japanese Experiment Module, also known as Kibo (Kee-Bo). Once in orbit, the Kibo (Kee-Bo) will provide an unprecedented platform for biological and physical research in space.

Japan is also developing the Centrifuge facility for the International Space Station. This facility will enable us to research how different levels of gravity facilitate biological processes, and will provide an essential research aid for the study of biological science in space.

Japan's leadership in developing systems like these for the International Space Station, and the continued involvement of your astronauts in space research and exploration activities, underscore the great tradition of U.S.-Japanese cooperation in space, which extends all the way back to 1969, the year that men first landed in the Moon.

In the years ahead, we will build on this tradition of cooperation, as we advance our shared passion for extending the spirit of exploration, discovery and invention ever farther into the new ocean of space.

So to everyone at JAXA, thank you for the honor of being among the first to say omedeto gozaimasu (phonetic?)  
(Oh-Meh-Deh-Toe Go-Zah-Ee-Mahs) — best wishes for great future success.

Deleted: s